

- c. determining a third price for an insurance instrument designed to indemnify against at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity at said second tier; and
  - d. offering said commodity at said second tier for sale at a fourth price; wherein said fourth price is a function of at least said second price and said third price.
- 2. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ownership of said insurance instrument is not transferred to said customer.
- 3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ownership of said insurance instrument is transferred to said customer.
- 4. (Amended) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity over a computer network comprising the steps of:
  - a. displaying to a customer on a display associated with a customer computer a price for a tier-priced commodity; wherein said commodity has at least a first tier and a second tier in its pricing structure; wherein said second tier has at least one associated risk;
  - b. receiving a request to purchase said tier-priced commodity on a seller computer connected to said buyer computer via a computer network;
  - c. selling said tier-priced commodity to said customer; and
  - d. transferring to said customer the right to receive insurance indemnification against loss due to the at least one associated risk if said commodity sold to said customer is from said second tier.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said insurance instrument is designed to protect against loss associated with interruptions in the delivery of said second tier commodity.
6. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the price of said insurance instrument is based upon one or more factors associated with said customer.
7. (Amended) A system for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity over a computer network comprising:
  - a. a first computer;
  - b. a second computer connected to said first computer by a computer network;
  - c. commodity data storage accessible to said second computer comprising at least one tier-priced commodity having at least a first tier and a second tier; and
  - d. insurance instrument data storage accessible to said second computer comprising at least one financial instrument designed to indemnify against at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier.
8. (Amended) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity comprising the steps of:
  - a. determining a first price for a commodity at a first tier from a first source for a customer;
  - b. determining a second price for said commodity at a second tier from said first source for said customer;

- c. determining a third price for a first insurance instrument designed to indemnify said customer against loss resulting from at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier from said first source;
  - d. determining a fourth price for said commodity at a first tier from a second source for said customer;
  - e. determining a fifth price for said commodity at a second tier from said second source for said customer.
  - f. determining a sixth price for a second insurance instrument designed to indemnify said customer against loss resulting from at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier from said second source; and
  - g. displaying to said customer the lowest of said first price, the sum of said second price and said third price, said fourth price and the sum of said fifth price and said sixth price.
9. (Amended) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity comprising the steps of:
- a. determining a first price for a commodity at a first tier for a first customer;
  - b. determining a second price for said commodity at a second tier for said first customer;
  - c. determining a third price for a first insurance instrument designed to indemnify said first customer against loss resulting from at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier;
  - d. determining a fourth price for said commodity at a first tier for a second customer;

- e. determining a fifth price for said commodity at a second tier for said second customer;
  - f. determining a sixth price for a second insurance instrument designed to indemnify said second customer against loss resulting from at least one risk associated with purchasing said commodity from said second tier;
  - g. displaying to said first customer the lowest of said first price, the sum of said second price and said third price; and
  - h. displaying to said second customer the lowest of said fourth price and the sum of said fifth price and said sixth price.
10. (Amended) A method for managing the sale of a tier-priced commodity comprising the steps of:
- a. displaying to a first bidder a first price for a commodity and a first insurance instrument designed to indemnify said first bidder against loss associated with at least one risk associated with the purchase of said commodity;
  - b. displaying to a second bidder a second price for a commodity and a second insurance instrument designed to indemnify said second bidder against loss associated with at least one risk associated with the purchase of said commodity;
  - c. receiving bids for said commodity from said first bidder and said second bidder; and
  - d. selling said commodity and transferring a right to collect against said first insurance instrument to said first bidder if said first bidder exceeds said first price by a greater amount than said second bidder exceeds said second price or selling